

Submitter: Oregon Nurse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

I am in support of allowing striking workers to apply for unemployment assistance. I have worked for a large healthcare company for over 19 years. I have seen them whittle away employee benefits, fail to keep with inflation, and reduce staffing to unsafe ratios in almost all departments. The financial and emotional burdens being placed on direct care givers and frontline workers is not sustainable. Unfortunately there is no recourse but to withhold our labor. With increased healthcare bills of our own as well as general inflation many of us are not able to financially withstand long term striking. My employer has deep pockets and seems to be content waiting and paying more for fewer scabs while overloading other healthcare systems. They have not been bargaining in good faith and not made ending the workers' strike a top priority. In cases such as this, striking employees should be allowed to file for financial assistance from the state.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.
Oregon Nurse